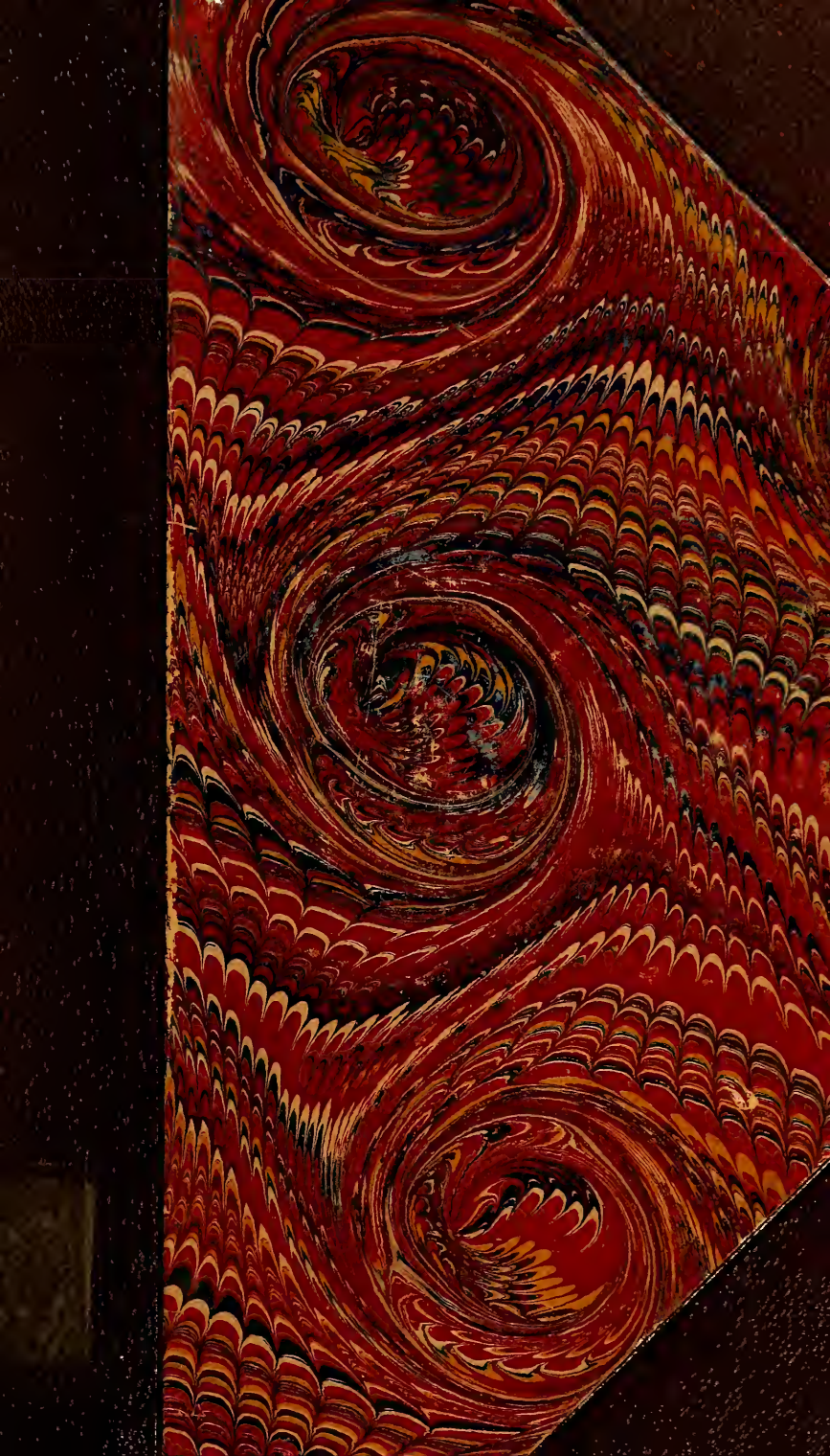




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The Blind.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. 7.

JULY 20TH, 1899.

All communications for the next number must be sent on or before September 17th to Mr. Henry J. Wilson, Hon. Editor, 53, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

The Editor does not of necessity identify himself with opinions which may be expressed in the signed articles or in letters of correspondents, and the right is reserved of not printing any letter which may seem not to come within the limits of a discussion likely to be profitable. Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Copies of this Paper, price 3d. each, or 3½d. post free, can be obtained from the Editor.

EDITORIAL.

In this number we give an article on "Blindness in the Potteries," which describes one of the many preventible causes of blindness. It is sad to reflect how little is being done to prevent blindness, when we know how many people have lost their sight through ignorance and neglect.

Judging from the favourable notices of "The Blind" in the last Annual Reports of the Birmingham and Bradford Institutions, and from many kind letters received, we may hope that this paper is in a fair way of accomplishing the object for which it was started, viz., the dissemination of information on matters connected with the Blind, and the bringing of Societies and Institutions more into touch with each other.

HENRY J. WILSON.

NOTES.

1. The Rev. E. L. Gedge, formerly Vicar of St. Nicholas, Rochester, has been appointed Rector of St. George's, Gravesend. The Bishop of Rochester is patron. Mr. Gedge became blind after he was ordained.

2. The Rev. Thomas Barnard, M.A., an old Gardner scholar at Worcester Blind College, who held the Fawcett

Memorial Scholarship at Oxford, and graduated with second class honours in Classics, was ordained priest by the Bishop of Llandaff on Ascension Day, May 11th, and not on Trinity Sunday as was expected and mentioned in our last number. Mr. Barnard took his M.A. degree at Oxford on April 27th.

3. Mr. Percival Hart Dyke, who was called to the Bar on January 26th, was for a time at the Worcester Blind College. Subsequently he studied privately with the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, and then proceeded to King's College, Cambridge. He took his B.A. degree in 1894, and was placed in the second class in the History Tripos. He is the elder son of the Right Hon. Sir William Hart Dyke, Bart., M.P.

4. At the last election of Guardians of the Poor in Dublin, Mr. John McDonnell (blind) headed the list of successful candidates.

5. The Rev. H. J. R. Marston has contributed an Essay on "Evangelical Revival," in a book entitled "Church and Faith" recently published by Messrs. Blackwood.

6. There were eight blind undergraduates at Oxford last term, viz., Messrs. Barker, Dexter, Dixon, Lane, Llewellyn, Palmer, Pope, and Swinnerton. Messrs. Dixon, Palmer, and Pope have graduated after a course of four years at the University. Mr. Palmer took his degree of B.A. on June 22nd. Messrs. Dixon and Pope were in for the Honour School of Modern History, but the result is not known at the time of going to press.

7. In the Oxford Free Public Library a collection of books in the Braille type is being made. Standard works in English, Latin, or Greek are especially needed by the blind undergraduates. If anyone would kindly copy books by hand, or present any already stereotyped, information as to those most needed would be gladly supplied by Miss C. Heberden, Brasenose College, Oxford.

8. The following statement is from *The Times* of last May :—

Remarkable Restoration to Sight.—Mrs. Samuel Wade, of Stanningley, who is nearly 70 years of age and has been blind for 30 years, has undergone a successful operation for cataract at the Leeds Infirmary, which has completely restored her sight. In an interview last week she said that she recognised neither Stanningley nor Leeds, so many new buildings had sprung up. She had buried two sons without seeing them, and on recovering her sight she saw for the first time her daughter, aged 21.

9. The sixth annual meeting of the Association of School Boards (England and Wales), was held in May, at St. Martin's Town Hall, London, when the president, the Dean of Manchester, presided. Two resolutions were moved in regard to the education of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, but both were referred to the Executive Committee. The first proposed that the maintenance and education of blind children should be a national and not a local charge ; and the second that application should be made to the Education Department for further relief for the School Boards in educating the Blind, &c.

One speaker, in pointing out what an excessive burden was imposed upon the rates in the case of small School Boards, stated that he knew a case in which the maintenance and education of one child involved a penny rate.

10. The Committee of the Swansea and South Wales Institution for the Blind have decided to build a wing to the institution at a cost of about £500, with accommodation for 20 additional beds. This is the only resident Institution for the Blind in Wales, and it has no endowment. In 1897 a commodious school-room and a class-room were built at an outlay of about £300, and a fire escape was also fixed as suggested by H.M. Inspector.

11. The Northern Counties Blind Society have rented the premises adjoining the rooms at present occupied at 2, Howard

Street, North Shields, and are having them adapted for a Sale Room and Workshop for the Blind. There is a front shop with three large windows, where goods manufactured by the industrious blind connected with the society (14 male and 32 female workers), will be displayed for sale. This society has two embossing presses at work, and prepares and binds books in Moon and Braille types for circulation amongst the 413 blind persons on its list. There are 3417 volumes in the library.

12. The annual meeting of the Homes for Aged Christian Blind Men and Women, Hanley Road, Crouch Hill, London, N.W., was held on June 2nd, when Mr. Frank Bevan presided. The report for the past year was read and adopted. There are 82 inmates, and many of them of a great age. There is also a branch home at Southend-on-Sea, where about 60 inmates and others have been for change and rest. All the property is freehold, and held by trustees in perpetuity for the benefit of the blind. This Home was founded in 1880 by the Rev. and Mrs. Henry Bright, the Hon. Superintendents, who have worked most assiduously in enlarging the Home as opportunity occurred, and in raising not only the necessary funds for the purchase of the property, but also sufficient for the annual upkeep of them.

13. The annual meeting of the Bristol Asylum was held on May 2nd, with the High Sheriff in the chair. According to the report then adopted there are 45 male and 25 female pupils—of these 50 are below 16 years of age—resident in the school, and there are also 15 out-door workmen. We are pleased to note that the Committee point out the need for more space so as to enable them to give “constant employment on the premises to pupils who may be qualified, instead of having to send them forth into the world with uncertain prospects before them.” We hope this need may soon be met.

14. The annual general meeting of the Association for Promoting the General Welfare of the Blind was held on June 15th, at the Workshop, at 258, Tottenham Court Road, London,

W. This institution was founded in 1856 by Miss Gilbert, the blind daughter of Bishop Gilbert of Chichester. In the report for 1898 a list is given of 95 men and women who are work-people, pensioners or pupils of the Association. The sales during the year amounted to over £10,000.

15. The new Home and Schools for Blind and Deaf Children at Leeds (referred to in No. 5 of "*The Blind*," par. 3), was officially opened on July 5th by Mrs. Henry Fawcett, who also gave an address. The guests were conducted through the building by Mr. G. J. Cockburn, J.P., the Chairman of the Leeds School Board. Several songs were well rendered by blind children.

16. The first annual meeting in connection with the Workshop for the Blind at Middlesborough, was held on February 14th, when Capt. J. G. Swan presided. The chief speakers were the Dean of York and Mr. A. Buckle. We trust that the people of Middlesborough will support this praiseworthy effort on behalf of the blind by purchasing baskets and other articles at the workshop.

17. The Annual Meeting of the Catholic Blind Asylum at Liverpool was held on April 24th. The number of inmates on December 31st last was 172, viz., 33 men, 51 women, and 88 children—49 boys and 39 girls. The building of a new auxiliary school for 65 children has been commenced.

18. The Bangor Home Teaching Society for the Blind has recently appointed another teacher to work exclusively in the Pwllheli and Festiniog districts.

A scheme is now under consideration for including the Dolgelly district, when it is proposed to change the name of the Society to the North Wales Home Teaching Society. There are 1249 volumes in the Library, of which 730 are in Welsh, and there are 224 blind persons on the Society's books.

19. Frames and boards for writing in larger Braille characters for the old and hard-handed, price 7/6 complete, are now on sale at the British and Foreign Blind Association. The frames are made of aluminium.

20. The British and Foreign Blind Association have made arrangements with the Clothworkers Company to join as Trustees of the Armitage Memorial Fund. The Company agree to supplement the income of the fund by £1000 a year and have the right of nominating two members on the Committee of Management.

21. The first volume (A to K) of the "Encyklopädisches Handbuch des Blindenwesens," edited by Professor Alexander Mell, Director of the Imperial Institution for the Blind in Vienna, has been issued, and the second and last volume is in the press. The book is published in German by Messrs. A. Picklers, Witwe & Sons, of Vienna and Leipsic. Price of vol. 1, 10/-

The Book gives an account of the rise and progress of work for the Blind from the earliest efforts to the present time. There are many Institutions and Societies in all parts of the world referred to in detail, but there are apparently many of the English ones of importance omitted altogether or dismissed in a few lines. The Clothworkers Company which distributes about £7000 a year in pensions and other City Charities are, as far as we can see, not even mentioned. In the Biographical section there are sketches of some of the eminent blind of all nations, and also of some of the instructors and co-workers for the amelioration of the condition of the blind. The various types and educational appliances are reviewed, and the medical faculty treat of ophthalmia in its different forms. The author's intention is to bring out supplementary volumes from time to time, thus bringing the information up to date.

The first volume, which consists of 400 pages, is well illustrated with diagrams and woodcuts, and its production must have entailed an expenditure of much time and labour. The

tables of the proposed alphabets for the Blind are clearly printed and very interesting. There are good portraits of the late Dr. Armitage and of Dr. Campbell.

22. The little kingdom of Denmark is behind no country in Europe in its general educational system, and the report of the Copenhagen Society for promoting the independence of the Blind, for 1898, shews that the Danes are in no sense behind-hand in their care for the Blind. The Royal Blind Institution for the education and training of the young blind is one of the first institutions of the kind in the world, and this society shews how well the work is followed up. The total income of the Assisting Society is about £1167, and we are pleased to notice it includes a contribution of over £500 from the State Treasury. The Department of the Society which aids the former pupils and other blind people in need, receives over £130 from contributing members. Two hundred persons have received help during the year, in sums varying from £1 to £15 each, and on the whole amounting to £507. Help is given in the form of clothes, tools, materials, house rent, support, sickness, journeys, guides, outfits, and repairs of musical instruments.

A Workshop is maintained in S. Kongensgade, where £710 has been paid as wages. Work done by the blind outside Copenhagen has been purchased to the amount of £138. A loan of £52 has been made to two blind men. The objects of the Society are stated to be :—

1. The care of pupils leaving the Royal Blind Institution, that is to say to aid them in their endeavour after self-support.

2. To help men and women, who have either lost their sight in later life, or who were beyond the age at which they can obtain admission at the Institution, with the object of getting them a maintenance either by teaching them a handicraft or by providing them with tools, or by helping them in some other employment.

3. Help in times of sickness, for the old and weak blind, who have worked when they were able to do so.

4. Sale of work made by the blind, which is purchased for ready money in the shop which is managed by this Society in S.

Kongensgade, Copenhagen, where also there is a magazine of materials which are sold to the blind at prime cost.

5. The employment of blind men in the workshop established in connection with this Society for basket making, brush making and mat making.

RECENT LITERATURE.

During the past three months the following works have been stereotyped in Braille by the British and Foreign Blind Association, 33, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, London, W.

	s.	d.
My Dark World, by A. Hirst	1	6.
4th Royal Atlas Reader, Interpointed in 2 vols., each vol.	3	6.
6th Royal Atlas Reader, Interpointed in 3 vols.		
Vols. 1 and 2, 2s. 6d. each. Vol. 3	3	6.
Urdu Primer price	0	6.

MUSIC.

Bach, Eight Short Preludes and Fugues. Edited by Dr. Pearce. price, complete	2	9.
Chaminade, Air de Ballet, op. 30 price	0	6.
Callirhoe, Fourth Air de Ballet "	0	3.
" Automne, Grand Etude de Concert "	0	8.
Dorn, Happy Thoughts, Caprice "	0	3.
Kirchner, Menuet, op. 386 "	0	3.
" Alla Turca, op. 386 "	0	2.
" Impromptu, op. 386 "	0	3.
" First Hunting Sketch "	0	3.
Paderewski, Melodie, op. 8, No. 3 "	0	3.
Schneeflocken, Pianoforte Pieces, op. 8 "	1	0.

The following Books have been recently stereotyped in Moon's type by Moon's Society, 104, Queen's Road, Brighton:—

	s.	d.
The History of America. vol. I. price	4	6.
The Gospel of St. Luke in Tamil. vol. I. "	3	6.
Spurgeon's Sermons. Vol. VI. "	3	6.

ENGLISH EDUCATION EXHIBITION, 1900.

Arrangements have now been completed for holding an Education Exhibition for England at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, from the 4th to the 27th of January next. This Exhibition is held under the auspices, though not under the direct control, of the Royal Commission for the Paris Exhibition, 1900, and from it the English exhibit in the British Education section at Paris will be chosen. It is hoped to make this English Exhibition as complete as possible, and to leave no side of education unrepresented.

A certain amount of space at the English Exhibition will be reserved for a display of exhibits relating to the Education of the Blind, not including therein Blind Schools under the control of School Boards, which will exhibit their work with the general exhibits of School Boards.

It may be expected that the space reserved for Blind Schools and Colleges not controlled by School Boards will amount to a run of table about 80 to 90 feet long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet broad, with wall or screen space behind it. This space is undeniably small, but as the area of the whole Exhibition is anything but large when it is considered how wide the field is that has to be covered, the smallness of the space is not to be attributed to any neglect by the Exhibition Committee of the claims of Blind Education. The space at Paris is considerably smaller, so that only the very best exhibits will be able to be chosen by the Royal Commission for display there.

A large number of Schools and Institutions for the Blind have been invited to contribute, but it is to be feared that there is a danger that the exclusively educational nature of the Exhibition may be forgotten, and that exhibits of an industrial character only may be offered as illustrating the education of the blind. It may therefore be well to state that industrial exhibits should only be displayed in connection with illustrations of the processes by which the blind are trained to industry, and that Institutions which do no educational work at all are not con-

sidered by the Exhibition Committee as within the scope of the Exhibition. The following is a suggested list of exhibits from a Blind Educational Institution which may serve to show what kind of objects the Committee wish to have exhibited :—

1. Photographs of buildings exterior and interior. Such Photographs should, if possible, show work actually in progress, *e.g.*, a Photograph of a Gymnasium should show Gymnastics going on.

2. A few typical specimens of manual training work from Kindergarten and work shop. These should show the best and most typical work and not be indiscriminate.

3. Exhibits illustrating general education ; examples of writing and reading books, shorthand writing materials, type writers for the use of the blind, and other educational apparatus.

4. Any reports, periodicals or other printed matter explanatory or illustrative of the life and work of the Institution.

5. Any articles of antiquarian or historical interest, showing methods of education formerly in vogue.

6. One or two portraits or engravings of men or women who have been identified with the work of education for the blind.

Exhibits should be sent in by the 15th December next at the latest. The Secretary to the Committee is Mr. J. Fischer Williams, 7, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C., who will be happy to give all information. Applications for space must in all cases be made to him.

BLINDNESS IN THE POTTERIES.

The interest roused during the past year in the conditions of labour in potteries has been so general that the most casual reader of newspapers can scarcely fail to be aware of the main facts of the case. I have been asked, however, to give a short account of the present state of things with special reference to the cases of blindness.

Although blindness was not unknown to medical men as

one of the most grave results of lead poisoning, the appeal of the Women's Trade Union League, in the January of last year, in behalf of three blind girls, and the subsequent publication of thirteen cases of total and several of partial blindness was a revelation to the general public.

I will begin with a brief statement of the effect of raw lead on the system.

The poison acts in three ways. (1.)—It may be absorbed through the pores of the skin (dippers who work with hands and arms up to the elbow in the glaze are constantly attacked by wrist-drop, a form of paralysis which affects the wrist and fingers), (2.) it may gain entrance by the lungs, (3.) by the digestive organs

I will quote Dr. Prendegast's account of blindness as a result of lead poisoning given under the head of "Lead Encephalopathy" in his book "The Potter and Lead Poisoning."

"This is one of the graver forms of lead poisoning. After working for some time in the lead processes, either as ware cleaners, dippers, majolica paintresses, or litho-transfer printers, pains in the head of a lancinating character are complained of, and vomiting, direct and reflex, results. The visual organs are disturbed, a feeling of malaise and helplessness is then described, and suddenly, in many cases, an epileptiform seizure ensues, and complete loss of vision is the result."

"The following cases, some of which I have seen, have lately happened in the Potteries":—

"Sarah Tittle, aged 29, married, sixteen months in the employ of a firm of tile manufacturers, was first in the majolica department and lately in the dipping house; after six months as dipper, she experienced the ordinary symptoms of lead poisoning, a short time afterwards she ceased work on account of her head symptoms. Epileptiform convulsions ensued, she became completely blind and delirious. She died."

*"George Thomas Smith, aged 16 years, two years employed

*This boy is now at the West of England Institution for the Blind, at Exeter. Part of his expenses are defrayed by a grant from the "Gardner Trust for the Blind," the rest from a fund raised by the Women's Trade Union League to deal with cases of lead poisoning. A grant has been made from the Trust towards the maintenance of a girl, also at Exeter.

in a dipping house as assistant. Pains in the head complained of, he was treated at the Heywood Hospital, Burslem, and also at the North Staffordshire Infirmary. He is totally blind."

Electrical treatment is generally considered by medical men to give the best chance of a cure for lead poisoning.

Paralysis is far easier to deal with than blindness, especially total blindness, although, even in such cases cures have been effected. Acting therefore on the advice of Dr. Oliver, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, whose treatise on lead poisoning is well known, several cases were sent to the electrical baths at Wolverhampton.

Dr. Oliver considered that although the chance of permanent cure was not very great it was sufficient to justify the League in expending part of their fund for this purpose. Unhappily, although the hopes of the unfortunate girls and boy were excited by a partial restoration of sight, the effect of the treatment was merely temporary.

The electrical treatment has proved far more effectual in cases of paralysis, and a large number of such cases have been sent by the league to Wolverhampton as patients of Dr. Armistage.

The question which must occur to every one who first hears of the terrible suffering caused by the use of raw lead, "Is this in any sense necessary" is best answered by reference to the Potteries Inquiry of 1893, when the first set of special rules for the trade were drawn up. There Dr. Laurie in his report on the use of glazes states that practically harmless glazes can be compounded containing 40 % of borax and lead, provided the lead is "fritted." This means that the lead should not be added in its raw state, but fused into a vitreous substance with the other constituents of the glaze, and then ground to powder at the mill. It is not enough merely to avoid the use of raw lead, but lead and borax must be used in the proportion indicated by Dr. Laurie, since an excess of lead even in its fritted condition is dangerous, and an excess of borax makes the lead soluble, which is also dangerous.

It is suggested in the above-named enquiry that a gradual, quiet revolution will be effected in the trade by means of experi-

ments in the direction indicated by Dr. Laurie. It is six years since the publication of the report, and there are no evidences of revolution, lead poisoning being indubitably on the increase. Last year, Dr. Oliver and Dr. Thorpe were told off to make a similar enquiry into the use of raw lead.*

The contention of the Women's Trade Union League, in the light of these facts, is that the revolution will remain purely imaginary, unless the stimulus of further legislation be applied. We suggest that the labour of young persons (*i.e.*, boys and girls) under 18 should be prohibited, except in cases where materials are used in conformity with the standard of safety laid down by the Home Office experts. This would have the twofold result of protecting the boys and girls who, in the unanimous opinion of the local doctors, are more susceptible, and ought not to be exposed to the influence of the poison, and of inducing further experiment on the part of the employers who would be deprived of their cheaper labour.

There is one more fact to which I should wish to direct my readers' attention, and two inevitable questions I should like to forestall.

It is impossible under the existing law to secure a minimum of good conditions as regards the peculiar dangers of trades scheduled as dangerous, in the same way that a minimum is secured for factories and workshops generally. The present procedure is as follows.—“Special Rules” are drawn up and laid on the table of the House for 40 days, any employer in the trade having a right to make objections within 21 days. Unless some compromise is arrived at, the matter is referred to arbitration, as was lately the case in the Potteries Trade.† Two sets of rules are then in force, the rules as at first proposed, and as mutilated by arbitration, and it is possible for an employer to transfer himself from the more stringent to the less stringent set, and at any time to make further objections and suggest further relaxations. These

* Since the above was written, this report has been published, and contains strong recommendations in favour of further legislation on the subject of the use of poisonous glazes.

† Two memoranda on the conditions of Labour in the Potteries have been issued by the Women's Trade Union League and will be forwarded by the Secretary, W.T.U.L., Club Union Buildings, Clerkenwell Road, E.C., on receipt of 1½d.

latter transactions are unknown to the public, unless they transpire incidentally in court, and it is obvious that the whole procedure makes adequate rules or effective inspection an impossibility just where it is most needed. The only reform would be to bring the dangerous trades' procedure into line with ordinary factory and workshop legislation, by abolishing arbitration, and doing away with the possibility of employers preferring private requests and objections to the Home office.

The inevitable questions are (1) Would the use of safe glazes add to the cost of china and earthenware? The answer to this is probably "yes,"* because the glazes made with raw lead require a lower temperature and the "biscuit," *i.e.*, unglazed material used, need not, therefore, be of so good a quality. The best china glazes now contain no lead or but a small quantity fritted. On the other hand, no lead is used in the cheapest earthenware as this is glazed with salt. Therefore the increase of expense would fall on the medium goods, and it is a fairly safe prophecy that it would be a merely temporary increase and insignificant at that. Judging from the indignation shewn by the Press of all kinds and shades of opinion, and the many private letters received at the office of the League, the opposition is not likely to come from the consumer.

The second question is "Can the evil effects of the poison be avoided by due precautions on the part of the workers?" I cannot reply to this better than by quoting the opinion of the women factory inspectors as expressed in their last report.

"We desire, however, to record our experience, based on very close inquiry and observation of all aspects of the matter, that the allegations and accusations so freely made on this subject are frequently baseless, and that not infrequently the shortcomings in question are directly traceable to the employer, whose zeal to carry out his share of the duty in this matter is limited to the provision of three basins for 25 workers. It has surprised us in such a case to hear the superficial observer lamenting the carelessness of the young persons who fail to use

*The increase of cost would probably fall on certain classes of goods only (v. Report, p. 10).

this imposing array of 'washing conveniences,' while the fact is ignored that the water to fill them has to be carried from the other side of the factory ; that if the washing is to be of any use each basin has to be carried away to be emptied and again refilled five times ; that towels either do not form part of the 'washing conveniences' or are provided at the rate of three a week, and that this washing has to be done during the time when the workers are naturally eager to rush off to their mid-day meal, or, tired out, are anxious to get home to rest and supper ; finally, that these elementary arrangements are not put under the control or care of any one responsible person. Over and over again we have heard assertions about the difficulty of preventing workers from eating their meals in rooms where they have been working at dangerous processess. 'Unless one is always on the watch,' or 'directly one's back is turned they will try to sit down to their dinners in the workroom,' is a plausible assertion until one notes that the said workroom is the only warm or 'comfortable' place which is available, and that the workers who cannot reach their homes in the meal hour must take them sitting in any draughty corner, or in a cold warehouse, which, after the heated workroom, strikes icily chill even on one's own warmly-clad and not over-heated or over-tired person. We have been surprised to find how frequently sympathetic observers have failed to realise or to take into account such conditions or circumstances before drawing their conclusions, and we have been surprised at the patient acquiescence in this blame by those who might very reasonably bring a *tu quoque* retort. We have not found any of this acquiescence or readiness to acknowledge blameworthiness among employers. There appears to us much room for a stronger and more general sense of the responsibility incurred by those who, while reaping the advantage of the employment of youthful labour, fail to realise that the youth and inexperience which render them unfit to protect themselves are reasons for -extra care and watchfulness (rather than for impatience) on the part of those who must be perfectly aware of the dangers of the industry."

I have purposely dwelt on the possible remedies for the

present evils, rather than on descriptions of special cases of suffering, as many have been cited in the press and also in Miss Tuckwell's article, "Commercial Manslaughter" in the *Nineteenth Century Magazine* of August last. The 20 cases of blindness mentioned above, many of which occurred before the boy or girl was 21 years old, and the fact that over 400 cases of lead poisoning are mentioned in the women inspectors' last report, the numbers reported monthly in the Labour Gazette for the current year making an equal, or greater return but too probable, are sufficient proofs that the evil exists. The important question is "How long shall it continue?"

MONA WILSON,

Sec. Women's Trade Union League.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The following letter, received by the Hon. Editor on July 4th, is a terrible revelation, and strong evidence of how little is being done to warn parents of the danger of purulent ophthalmia.

"I have been staying in a friend's parish, where the people are very poor, and very ignorant and careless on the subject of infantine blindness. I have come across some very sad cases of neglect, and the mother of one blind infant seemed to find consolation in telling me that when she took the child to the local Hospital there were *nine* other mothers there with blind infants which the doctors pronounced hopeless cases!

"I should be so much obliged if you would kindly send me some copies of your paper on infantine blindness, for distribution in the parish. It does seem so sad that blind lives should often be the result of such careless neglect."



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